
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4, Atlanta, Georgia



Capitol City Plume Site
Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama

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Community Newsletter

Vol.3

EPA Investigates Downtown Area

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a remedial investigation in downtown Montgomery, in an area named the Capitol City Plume site. The site covers an area from Alabama Street (south) to Pollard Street (north) and Court Street (west) to Union Street (east).

EPA is investigating the site because tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX) were discovered several years ago in City groundwater and in two municipal wells. The wells were taken out of service to protect the quality of the City's drinking water system.

PCE and BTEX are chemicals often used by dry cleaners, automobile service stations, and print shops. EPA's investigation will provide information about the extent of PCE and BTEX in the groundwater and possible sources of these chemicals.

During the investigation, EPA will install monitoring wells on the site and collect groundwater and soil samples. Samples will be analyzed, and the results will be evaluated. EPA will prepare a report later this year that presents investigation results.

Site History

In 1993, soil containing PCE was excavated during construction of the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) Tower. The soil was removed and disposed of properly. The discovery of the PCE in the soil prompted the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to conduct a preliminary

assessment of the area near the RSA Tower, in accordance to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a federal law governing environmental protection. The preliminary assessment performed by ADEM concluded that groundwater was contaminated with PCE and BTEX.

In 1996, ADEM performed a site investigation, to assess the threat to human health and the environment. In 1999, ADEM recommended that the EPA evaluate the site further under CERCLA.

Also in 1999, the Montgomery Water Works and Sanitary Sewer Board conducted its own investigation of the groundwater in the downtown area and found similar contamination.

February 10, 2000, EPA held a community meeting to explain the upcoming investigation to interested citizens and to answer questions about the site.

EPA Point of Contact

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Information Repository

Main Branch Library
245 High Street
Montgomery

The Capitol City Plume site information repository contains technical reports and reference documents about the CERCLA process and the site. EPA invites citizens to review these documents to get more information about the Capitol City Plume site.
